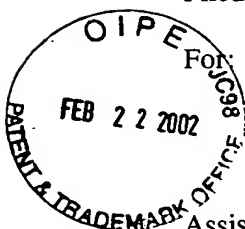


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
)  
Dan Gross, et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unknown  
)  
Application No.: 10/027,681 ) Examiner: Unknown  
)  
Filed: December 21, 2001 )  
)  
For: SUTURE TRIMMER )

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**APR - 3 2002**  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

**U.S. PATENTS**

U.S. Patent No. 3,625,556 issued to Stromberg on December 7, 1971  
U.S. Patent No. 5,176,691 issued to Pierce on January 5, 1993  
U.S. Patent No. 5,242,459 issued to Buelna on September 7, 1993  
U.S. Patent No. 5,417,699 issued to Klein, et al. on May 23, 1995  
U.S. Patent No. 5,527,322 issued to Klein, et al. on June 18, 1996  
U.S. Patent No. 5,879,371 issued to Gardiner, et al. on March 9, 1999  
U.S. Patent No. 6,132,439 issued to Kontos on October 17, 2000  
U.S. Patent No. 6,171,317 issued to Jackson, et al. on January 9, 2001

The documents are being submitted within 3 months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or statement is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

To assist the Examiner, the listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:

  
Kelly J. McCrystle  
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Date: February 21, 2002



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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 033297-120

3731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Dan Gross, et al.

Application No.: 10/027,681

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: SUTURE TRIMMER

)  
) Group Art Unit: Unassigned

)  
) Examiner: Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying form PTO-1449 for the above-identified patent application.

- ☒ [X] No additional fee for submission of an IDS is required.
- ☐ [ ] The fee of \$180.00 (126) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is also enclosed.
- ☐ [ ] A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is also enclosed.
- ☐ [ ] A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and the fee of \$180.00 (126) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) are also enclosed.
- ☐ [ ] Charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- ☐ [ ] A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for the fee due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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